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Mecklenburg County Youth Sports Philosophy: *To provide an environment for children to learn the fundamentals of sport while emphasizing the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, physical fitness and fair play.*

I. LEAGUE INFORMATION

- A. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The program shall be known as the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's Youth Fall Soccer League.
- B. **REGISTRATION:** Registration will be held in July and will run for a minimum of four (4) weeks. Participants may register at any recreation center, online at www.parkandrec.com by clicking on the Eparks logo. Specific questions may be directed to Youth Sports Development at (980) 314-1116 or emailed to the Youth Sports Development Staff at YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.
- C. **LENGTH OF SEASON:** The regular season will run for approximately eight (8) weeks to encompass the eight (8) scheduled regular season games. Teams may be required to participate in "double headers" (whereby two games may be scheduled for the same day) in an effort to avoid off or "bye" weeks. A single elimination post season tournament will immediately follow the regular season. ***Exception: 6U and 8U TEAMS do not compete in a post season tournament***

II. PLAYING RULES

- A. **US Youth Soccer (USYS)**
All games will be governed by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA), the youth affiliate of the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), and the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's local rule modifications, as mentioned below. These rules must be strictly adhered to by all staff, officials, coaches, teams, participants, parents and spectators. **The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to modify league play rules to accommodate and or enhance the overall experience and/or service being provided.** For more information about or to view the US Youth Soccer rules please visit their website at <http://www.ussoccer.com>.
- B. **GENERAL RULES OF THE GAME**
 - 1. **Starting and Stopping Play:** A coin toss will determine the 1st offensive possession & defensive half selection. To begin play, defensive players must remain outside the center circle or 10 yards from the ball within their half of the field, while the offensive players are permitted to be inside the circle to kick off. The referee will sound the whistle to start the game signaling the kick off, which is a direct kick and can be scored without contacting another player first. On the initial kick, the ball must travel forward (at least one full rotation) to begin play and the kicker may not contact the ball again until it has been touched by another player. Stoppages in play occur on the following: fouls, infractions, when a ball completely crosses a touch line (side line) or goal line (end line). Balls crossing over the end line will either result in a corner kick or a goal kick. Balls crossing the side line will result in a throw in. Teams will change ends of field at the half. The Instructional division will alternate kicking off to begin quarters.
 - 2. **Scoring:** A goal is scored when the entire ball has passed over the goal-line between the goal-posts and under the crossbar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by a hand or arm of a player of the attacking side. After a goal is scored, the game shall be restarted with the kick off (restart) at center field being taken by the team yielding the last goal.
 - 3. **Goal kicks** are awarded when the ball completely crosses the defensive end line

after being touched by an offensive player and are taken from the spot marked in the goal area by the defending team.

4. **Corner kicks**, which are direct kicks, are awarded when the ball completely crosses the defensive end line after being last touched by a defending player and are taken from within or on the corner arches by the offensive team.
5. **Direct kicks** may be struck directly and are not required to contact another player prior to being scored. Direct Kicks are only applicable to players in the 10u age division. (New in 2017).

Offenses for which a direct kick is awarded are:

- a. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- b. Tripping an opponent intentionally
- c. Jumping at an opponent
- d. Charging violently or in a dangerous manner
- e. Attempting to strike or striking an opponent
- f. Holding an opponent
- g. Pushing an opponent
- h. Hand balls

Note: if any of the above offenses are whistled within the penalty area, a penalty kick or possibly direct kick will be awarded from the field appropriate distance listed within the Division Rules.

6. **Indirect kicks**** must be contacted by another player prior to being scored. An indirect kick is awarded for:
 - a. Intentional dangerous play
 - b. "Obstruction" (shielding the ball from a player without established possession)
 - c. Interfering with the goalkeeper
 - d. Charging (i.e., using shoulder when ball is not within playing distance)
 - e. Making contact without attempting to play the ball
 - f. Handball violations committed by the goalkeeper outside the permitted area
 - g. Delay of game tactics
 - h. A player touches the ball a 2nd time, before it's touched by another player on a kickoff or indirect kick
 - i. Dissents by word or action regarding an official's ruling

****Indirect kicks are used for all infractions for 6u and 8u leagues (New in 2017)**

C. 5-6 YEAR OLD – INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION

1. **FIELD DIMENSIONS/MARKINGS:**
 - a. Width: 60'
 - b. Length: 90'
 - c. Goal Area: 12' x 15'
2. **BALL:** A size #3 soccer ball will be used for game play.
3. **ROSTER:** Each roster should contain a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of six (6) players to ensure quality instruction opportunity. Teams may field a maximum of three (3) players (*no goalkeeper*). Teams are encouraged to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY. There are no forfeits.
4. **LENGTH OF GAME:** Each game shall consist of four (4), six (6) minute quarters (with a two (2) minute break in between quarters) with a running game clock and a five (5) minute halftime.
5. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Substitutions are to be made only during the breaks between quarters to ensure that players are getting maximum playing time. **Exception:** *Injured, sick or fatigued players requesting to come off.*
6. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls result in indirect free kicks with opponents at least four (4) yards away. No cards will be shown in this age group. Explain the infraction to the player.
 - a. **GOALKEEPING:** Defending players are not allowed to position themselves inside their own goal area. Players may run through area to attack the ball, or enter should the ball/play enter the area. *(New in 2017)*
Penalty: Officials will stop play. Indirect free kick awarded to opposition at halfway line (if opposition has the ball in their own defending half), or the location of the ball when the whistle is blown (if opposition has ball in their offensive half of the field).
 - b. **SLIDE TACKLES:** Prohibited.
 - c. **HEADING:** Prohibited.
 - d. **OFFSIDE:** None.
 - e. **PENALTY KICKS:** None.
7. **THROW-IN:** Throw-in replaced with a kick/pass-in. Opponents placed at least four (4) yards away.
8. **CORNER KICKS:** Opponents placed at least four (4) yards away.
9. **GOAL KICKS:** Ball placed one (1) yard to the outside of either goal post. Opposing players at least four (4) yards away.

D. 7-8 YEAR OLD – INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISION

1. **FIELD DIMENSIONS/MARKINGS:**
 - a. Width: 75'
 - b. Length: 90'
 - c. Center Circle: 12' radius
 - d. Goal Area: 12' x 15'
2. **BALL:** A size #3 soccer ball will be used for game play.

3. **ROSTER:** Each roster should contain a minimum of six (6) and maximum of eight (8) players. Teams may field a maximum of four (4) players (*no goalkeeper*). Teams are encouraged to 'loan' a player or two to the team that is short players and then PLAY. There are no forfeits.
4. **LENGTH OF GAME:** Each game shall consist of four (4), ten (10) minute quarters (three (3) minute breaks in between quarters) with a running game clock and a five (5) minute halftime.
5. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Free substitutions during any stoppage of play. Official must be notified of the substitution request and approve it. The official will hold play and allow the players to enter and exit the field of play.
6. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that all fouls result in indirect free kicks with opponents at least five (5) yards away. Official to explain all infringements to the offending player.
 - a. **GOALKEEPING:** Defending players are not allowed to position themselves inside their own goal area. Players may run through area to attack the ball, or enter should the ball/play enter the area. *(New in 2017)*
Penalty: Officials will stop play. Indirect free kick awarded to opposition at halfway line (if opposition has the ball in their own defending half), or the location of the ball when the whistle is blown (if opposition has ball in their offensive half of the field).
 - b. **SLIDE TACKLES:** Prohibited. Any attempts will be whistled as fouls and team warnings will be issued. Future violations will result in cardings by the official.
 - c. **HEADING:** Prohibited.
 - d. **OFFSIDE:** None.
 - e. **PENALTY KICKS:** None.
7. **THROW or PASS-INS:** Players will be provided an option to throw or pass a ball into play. Players opting to throw the ball will have two (2) attempts to perform a legal throw in. Their third attempt must be a pass-in. A pass-in is considered as an indirect free kick with the opponents two (2) yards from the ball until it is in play.
8. **CORNER KICKS:** Opponents placed at least five (5) yards away.
9. **GOAL KICKS:** Ball placed on the goal line within five (5) yards of the goal. Opposing players at least five (5) yards away.

E. 9-10 YEAR OLDS – RECREATIONAL DIVISION

1. **FIELD DIMENSIONS/MARKINGS:**
 - a. Width: 120'
 - b. Length: 150'
 - c. Center Circle: 24' radius
2. **BALL:** A size #4 soccer ball will be used for game play.

3. **ROSTER:** Each roster should contain a minimum of eight (8) and maximum of 12 players. Teams must field seven (7) players (six (6) field players and one (1) goalkeeper). A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than five players. **(New in 2017).** Forfeit information in section III, subsection F.
4. **LENGTH OF GAME:** Each game shall consist of two (2), 20 minute halves with a running game clock and a five (5) minute halftime. No added time at the end of either half.
5. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Free substitutions during any stoppage of play. Official must be notified of the substitution request and approve it. The official will hold play and allow the players to enter and exit the field of play.
6. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that an indirect free kick will be awarded if a goalkeeper punts or dropkicks the ball, and if a player deliberately heads the ball. Opponents must remain at least five (8) yards away until the ball is kicked.
 - a. **SLIDE TACKLES:** Prohibited. Any attempts will be whistled as fouls and team warnings will be issued. Future violations will result in cardings by the official.
 - b. **HEADING:** Prohibited.
 - c. **OFFSIDE:** None. **(Change from 2014)**
 - d. **PENALTY KICKS:** Penalty mark is ten (10) yards from the goal line.
7. **THROW IN:** Players will be allowed two (2) attempts to perform a legal throw in. The 2nd failed attempt will result in a change of possession.
8. **CORNER KICKS:** Opponents placed at least eight (8) yards away.
9. **GOAL KICKS:** Conform to FIFA.
10. **FREE KICKS:** Conform to FIFA with the exception that opponents are at least eight (8) yards from the ball until kicked.
 - a. **Direct kicks** may be struck directly and are not required to contact another player prior to being scored. Offenses for which a direct kick is awarded are:
 1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
 2. Tripping an opponent intentionally
 3. Jumping at an opponent
 4. Charging violently or in a dangerous manner
 5. Attempting to strike or striking an opponent
 6. Holding an opponent
 7. Pushing an opponent
 8. Hand balls

Note: if any of the above offenses are whistled within the penalty area, a penalty kick or possibly direct kick will be awarded from the field appropriate distance listed within the Division Rules.
 - b. **Indirect kicks** must be contacted by another player prior to being scored. An indirect kick is awarded for:
 1. Intentional dangerous play

2. "Obstruction" (shielding the ball from a player without established possession)
3. Interfering with the goalkeeper
4. Charging (i.e., using shoulder when ball is not within playing distance)
5. Making contact without attempting to play the ball
6. Handball violations committed by the goalkeeper outside the permitted area
7. Delay of game tactics
8. A player touches the ball a 2nd time, before it's touched by another player on a kickoff or indirect kick
9. Dissents by word or action regarding an official's ruling

F. GENERAL RULE MODIFICATIONS

1. **SCORING:** Scoring will not be kept in the 5-6 and 7-8 Instructional Division. Score will be kept in the 9-10 Recreation Division and older and game officials will report scores to site supervisors directly following the games.
 - a. **MERCY RULE:** Any team taking a lead of five (5) goals will be required to remove a player from the field of play. This will continue for every goal by which the lead is extended (*Example: 6th goal results in the loss of another player, etc.*) As the lead margin is lessened, players may return to the field in the same manner they were removed (*Example: going from a 6 goal lead to a five goal lead allows one player to return, etc.*)
2. **COACHES:** Each team must be led by a certified NYSCA coach.
3. **BENCH/SIDELINE PERSONNEL:** A maximum of three bench personnel will be permitted in the bench area. This may include coaches and/or a team manager. For the 10u division and older, it may also include a statistician. All other team personnel must remain inside the designated spectator areas. Only Mecklenburg County approved volunteers may reside in the bench or player area. Each approved volunteer must be issued an ID Badge by his or her respective center staff and have it available to present to staff each game day.
4. **WARM UP:** On field warm up time will not be scheduled. Teams may utilize the field for warm up time once the previous game has concluded. Games will begin promptly at their scheduled time.
5. **GRACE PERIODS:** There is a ten (10) minute grace period that will be allowed **only** for the first scheduled game of the day. Each game after the first scheduled game of the day is expected to begin as scheduled.
6. **OFFICIAL TIME/CLOCK:** All officials should check with staff to verify time before decisions are made in regards to forfeits or grace periods. Once the game has begun, timing should be kept by the field official. Clock stoppages will only occur in the event of an injury or other extenuating circumstance.
OVERTIME: During the regular season, for recreation divisions only, in the event of a tied score at the end of regulation play, the official will implement a five (5) minute overtime period. A coin toss conducted by the official will determine the beginning possession. The score at the end of the overtime period will be submitted as the

- final score. Games can be recorded as a tie.
7. **GAME SCHEDULING & MAKE UPS:** Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to schedule games when needed as a result of cancellations due to inclement weather or to accommodate playoff games/tournament play. Teams should be aware that playing games on weekday evenings or weekend mornings and/or evenings is always a possibility. In the event of multiple rain outs, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation reserves the right to cancel make up games in an effort to avoid extending the season excessively. This is solely at the discretion of the department staff.
 8. **INCLEMENT WEATHER HOTLINE:** In the event of INCLEMENT WEATHER, please call (704) 432-3834 **after 4pm on weekdays & after 8am on weekends** for an update on game conditions and status. Secondly, for additional information, you may call the Recreation Center or site where your games are to be played.
 9. **ADA COMPLIANCE:** In order to comply with the American Disabilities Act, league rules may be adapted in order for participation. An "ADA Exception Form" will be submitted prior to beginning of play, and approved by Karla Gray, Therapeutics Division Director and the Youth Sports Development staff, and kept on file to verify changes of rules.

III. TEAMS

All teams and participants must abide by all rules and regulations of Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department, which govern participation in the League's under its jurisdiction.

- A. **EQUIPMENT:** Each team will provide a minimum of one game ball per game. Rubber/molded cleats or turf shoes are permitted. **Hard plastic or metal cleats prohibited.** Each team in the 10u age division or older must provide a goalie jersey. A goalie jersey must be significantly different in color as to differentiate the goal keeper from other players on his/her team.
- B. **PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Each youth soccer participant is **required** to wear shin guards under the socks during game play. Participants are also **strongly encouraged** to wear an athletic supporter, cup, groin pad or combination of those items during all practices and games to decrease the risk of serious injury. **HAIR ACCESSORIES: Participants with hair accessories such as bows and/or beads made of plastic or any other hardened material (non fabric) must be removed prior to participation being permitted.**
- C. **UNIFORMS:** During competition, all teams are required to wear uniforms consisting of the same or similar colored shirt. Jerseys or shirts should be printed with at least six (6) inch numbers on the back. Players failing to meet the uniform requirements will be ineligible to play. Temporary uniform modifications are prohibited: **No taped-on or written-on numbers.** ****Due to seasonal weather extremes, under shirts (long sleeve) and pants will be permitted without color requirements.***
- D. **TEAM PHOTO ID SHEET:** All teams in the 10u age division or older must submit an official Team Photo ID sheet. The sheet must be verified by the Facility Manager of that center or the athletic director of the independent organization, prior to playing the 1st game of the season. A photo, name and date of birth must be stated for every player on the ID sheet. Each team manager/coach must possess a copy of their Team Photo ID Sheet at each game and ensure that the opposing team manager/coach has verified them, at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled game start time. Photo ID Sheets may be subject to

inspection by Field Supervisors at any time. **Exception: 5-6 and 7-8 INSTRUCTIONAL TEAMS***

- E. **BIRTH CERTIFICATES:** All players are required to provide a valid birth certificate or other approved legal document showing proof of age. This document must be verified by staff in order to establish eligibility.
- F. **FORFEITS:** In the 10u age division and older, each team must be ready to play with the minimum required number of players on site at their scheduled game time. In the event a team is unable to produce the minimum number of players to begin the game, the result is a forfeit by that team with a score reported as 3 – 0 in favor of the winning team. In the event both teams are unable to produce the required amount of players to begin the game, then both teams will receive a forfeit (double forfeit 3 - 3) and a loss will be applied to both teams record for the purposes of the league standings. If a team forfeits three (3) games in a season, they will be subject to dismissal from the league, pending review of the incidents by the Youth Soccer Focus Team and Athletic Office. ***The Park and Recreation Staff reserves the right to overrule an official's decision regarding a forfeit with regard to extenuating circumstances.**
- G. **VOLUNTEER COACHES:** All Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department volunteer sports coaches must complete the following requirements prior to assuming their role:
 - Each volunteer must apply and receive approval as a youth sport coach through the online process located at the following link:
<https://volunteerweb.mecklenburgcountync.gov/>
 - 1. Each volunteer coach must sign the Coaches Code of Ethics
 - 2. Each Head Coach will be required to complete training and receive certification through the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS). This online training can be scheduled by the staff at your respective recreation center. Although only the head coach is required, it is recommended by the Youth Sports Development Team that all coaches receive training and certification <http://www.nays.org/Coaches/>
 - 3. Each coach must thoroughly read and become familiar with the respective rules for their sport including but not limited to the Mecklenburg County Youth Sports Philosophy, league rules, policies, procedures and **Code of Conduct**

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **INELIGIBLE PLAYERS:** Participants can play on only one (1) team within the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation league structure. Any player listed on multiple rosters or participating on multiple teams will be found to be ineligible immediately. Any and all teams which the ineligible player is found to be listed on the roster of will be subject to forcible forfeit of all games found in violation pending an investigation. An ineligible player will be subject to suspension, pending review of incident(s). Any team manager/coach knowingly or willingly playing a suspended or ineligible player will be suspended for 1 calendar year or more, from all P&R youth sports activities

V. AGE CLASSIFICATION

- A. **CUT OFF DATE:** Age classifications are determined by the participant's calculated age as of September 1st, 2017. The following is a list of the offered age divisions.
1. (CO-ED INSTRUCTIONAL) Ages 5 and 6
 2. (CO-ED INSTRUCTIONAL) Ages 7 and 8
 3. (CO-ED RECREATIONAL) Ages 9 and 10
- B. **PLAY UP POLICY:** Participants registering in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sport Programs are strongly recommended to register within their corresponding pre-determined age group according to their chronological age as determined by the "cut off" date. In the event that a parent or guardian feels that their child would benefit greatly from participating in a higher age division, which is not recommended, the department acknowledges the request and will accommodate the parent/guardian by approving the "Play Up" request for participants moving up by **1 Year of Age only**. A Play Up Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement should be signed by a legal guardian and stored on file at the respective facility, as well as a copy submitted to the Athletic Staff.

VI. MUST PLAY RULE

- A. ALL DIVISIONS will abide by the "MUST PLAY" Rule. Coaches must monitor and manage the playing time of all players on his/her team. Maximum participation is encouraged for all participants.
- B. **INSTRUCTIONAL:** All players must play a minimum of 1 half or 2 quarters.
- C. **RECREATIONAL:** All players must play a minimum of 1 half or 2 quarters.

VII. TOURNAMENT PLAY

COUNTYWIDE MODIFICATIONS: In the County-Wide Tournament for the 10u division, games remaining tied after completing both regulation play and the additional five (5) minute overtime period will be subject to a penalty kick shootout. Each team will receive five (5) shots, ten (10) yards from the goal.

- A. **TEAM SELECTION:** A sliding scale will be used to select teams for the Countywide Tournament (see table below).

# TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN REGULAR SEASON LEAGUE	# TEAMS ADVANCING TO COUNTYWIDE TOURNAMENT
9-10 TEAMS	TOP 6
7-8 TEAMS	TOP 5
5-6 TEAMS	TOP 4
4 TEAMS	TOP 3

- B. The top teams in each league with the best regular season record will advance to the Countywide Tournament. Seeding will be determined by the regular season standings. If the event of a tie between two (2) or more teams, tournament seeding will be determined by the following tie-breakers:
 - 1. Head to head record
 - 2. Fewest defensive points (allowed) against each other
 - 3. Fewest total defensive points (allowed) against all opponents in the regular season
 - 4. Coin toss with heads and tails being assigned by the staff tossing the coin
- C. **SWAC TOURNAMENT:** Teams (10U and older) that are interested in learning more about the opportunity to participate in the State-Wide Athletic Committees' (SWAC) State RECREATIONAL & OPEN tournaments. NOTE: TEAMS THAT REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE WILL ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY IN REGARDS TO RULES, POLICY, PROCEDURE, REGISTRATION, PLANNING AND FUNDING (FUNDING INCLUDES: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FEES, TRAVEL EXPENSES, FOOD AND LODGING EXPENSES.)
Please visit www.ncrpa.net for tournament information.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. **PROTESTS:** PROTESTS WILL NOT BE HONORED
 - 1. Discrepancies about participant age should be resolved by staff on site utilizing the Photo ID Sheet provided.
- B. **CONFLICT RESOLUTION / CHAIN OF COMMAND:**
If a conflict arises & no decision is rendered by the onsite Athletic Assistant Staff, then the on-call Focus Team member must be contacted to make the final decision. Order of decision making:
 - 1. Game Officials: Govern play on the field, court, etc.
 - 2. Facility/AA Staff: Provide onsite administrative checkpoints for rule modifications, paperwork and scorekeeping
 - 3. Focus Team On Duty: Oversees countywide game day operations and address issues/concerns
 - 4. Youth Sports Development Staff: Oversees league administration

IX. CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** MCPRD POSSESSES A **ZERO TOLERANCE** POLICY FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS & SPECTATORS WITH REGARD TO INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT.
- B. **COACHING STAFF:** All Coaches are RESPONSIBLE for the eligibility of all players, as well as the conduct of any team player(s), spectator(s), and other team affiliated persons. Any and all team-affiliated persons previously mentioned must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when involved in any Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's youth athletic programs. This rule applies to conduct on all MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK PROPERTY before, during, and after scheduled games. Suspension of entire teams, coaches, individual players and other team-affiliated persons may occur if any eligibility and/or conduct guidelines/procedures are not adhered to.
- C. **INCIDENT PROCEDURES:** Individuals in question or suspected of violating conduct will be asked to provide a written statement regarding the details of the incident in question, as

well as their involvement or participation in said incident by 5:00pm of the following Wednesday to a Youth Sports Development Team member. Failure to provide a written statement is viewed as an admission of guilt and will be grounds for suspension.

COMMUNICATION WITH OFFICIALS: **ONLY HEAD COACHES will be permitted to consult with the UMPIRE/OFFICIAL and this MUST BE DONE IN A SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER.**

It is in the best interest of head coaches to approach umpires/officials with courtesy, respect and in the presence of staff whenever possible. Penalty:

EJECTION - Immediate removal from the facility and will receive a minimum 2 game suspension for the 1st offense and a one (1) year suspension from the point of infraction for any 2nd offense. The ejected coach may not enter the facility until the end of the suspension as a coach or spectator. Ejected person must leave the grounds. (RULE C UNDER "SUSPENSIONS" WILL APPLY WHEREVER DEEMED NECESSARY).

- D. **PLAYER DISSENT:** Players will not be permitted to question or consult with the Officials over judgment calls. Unsportsmanlike conduct or dissent toward an Official is strictly prohibited
Penalty: EJECTION – Immediate removal from the facility and a two (2) game suspension.
- E. **DISSENT:** If a team, coach or participant attempt to delay, hinder or prevent the start of or completion of a game in protest, the team, coach or participant may be subject to a disciplinary suspension for up to one (1) year from the date of the infraction.
- F. **ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR:** Players, Coaches, and other team-affiliated persons must not threaten, verbally abuse, use profanity/vulgar language or make physical contact of an aggressive nature with any other player(s), Coaches, Park and recreation Staff or Official(s).
Penalty: EJECTION – Immediate removal from the facility & suspended for minimum of one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- G. **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:** Absolutely no one (players or coaches) will be permitted to participate in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department activities under the influence of alcohol. Nor shall they possess or use any controlled substance before, during or after their scheduled game(s) on County property. **Penalty:** EJECTION – Immediate removal from the facility & suspended for minimum of one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.
- H. **SPECTATORS:** If spectators and/or affiliated persons' conduct become overly unruly & unsportsmanlike during the course of the game, the MCPRD staff & game officials reserve the authority to empty the facility & allow only coaches & players to remain, in the effort to finish game play in a safe and controlled environment.
Penalty: EJECTION – Immediate removal from the facility & minimum two (2) game suspension.

X. SUSPENSIONS

- A. All ejections will carry an automatic two (2) game suspension. This includes players, coaches and spectators.
- B. Any Players, Coaches or Spectators who are suspended from league play will be ineligible for league play as a player, coach, or spectator for the duration of their suspension.
- C. Any violation while under suspension will be treated as a 2nd offense and all penalties will apply, including extending existing suspension.
Any suspension occurring with less than two (2) games remaining in any league play will result in suspension from league play including tournament play, from the verified date of

infraction, pending review of the Youth Soccer Focus Team.

- D. Any suspension for one (1) year or more will require a written request for reinstatement. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department reserves the right to deny reinstatement and/or extend any and all suspensions.

For more information about the youth sports programs in Mecklenburg County, please contact your nearest Recreation Center or contact Youth Sports Development at (980) 314-1116 or email YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department encourages and promotes inclusive leisure experiences in all of our programs, activities and sports. Inclusive leisure experiences encourage and enhance opportunities for people of varying abilities to participate and interact in life's activities together with dignity. It also provides an environment that promotes and fosters physical, social and psychological inclusion of people with diverse experiences and skill levels. Inclusion enhances individuals' potential for full and active participation in leisure activities and experiences.